

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~, or if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see, in double brackets [[]].

1. (Currently amended) A knife comprising:

a handle including a first side and a second side, the first side removably coupled to the second side;

a blade removably secured to the handle and rotatable about a pivot point between an open position and a closed position; and

a manually-releasable fastening device disposed on the handle **having a retaining element adapted to support the blade during rotation about the pivot point, and a manipulable element adjustably attached to the retaining element and** adapted to secure the first side to the second side and to secure the blade to the handle.

2. (Original) The knife of claim 1, wherein said manually-releasable fastening device is disposed about the pivot point.

3. (Currently amended) The knife of claim 1, wherein the ~~fastening device~~ **manipulable element** includes a manipulable knob and **the retaining element includes** a retention post.

4. (Original) The knife of claim 3, wherein the manipulable knob includes friction grips.

5. (Original) The knife of claim 3, wherein the blade has a tang including an inlet adapted to engage the retention post of the fastening device

6. (Original) The knife of claim 5, wherein the inlet includes a receptacle adapted to engage the retention post of the fastening device.

7. (Original) The knife of claim 1, wherein the first side and the second side are releasably coupled via a connector.

8. (Currently amended) A knife comprising:

a handle including a first side and a second side;

a blade removably secured to the handle, wherein the blade is adapted to be disposed in an open position and a closed position; and

a manually-releasable fastening device having a retaining element adapted to support the blade in the open position and in the closed position, and a manipulable element adjustably attached to the retaining element and adapted to releasably engage the handle and the blade, wherein ~~release~~ adjustment of the ~~fastening device~~ manipulable element relative to the retaining element enables removal of the blade from the handle and separation of the first side from the second side.

9. (Original) The knife of claim 8, wherein said manually-releasable fastening device is disposed about the pivot point.

10. (Currently amended) The knife of claim 8, wherein ~~release~~ adjustment of the ~~fastening device~~ manipulable element relative to the retaining element enables rotation of the first side relative to the second side disengaging the first side from the second side.

11. (Currently amended) The knife of claim 8, wherein the ~~manually-releasable fastening device~~ manipulable element includes a knob and the retaining element includes a retention post.

12. (Original) The knife of claim 11, wherein the knob includes friction grips.

13. (Original) The knife of claim 11, wherein the blade has a tang including an inlet adapted to engage the retention post of the manually-releasable fastening device.

14. (Original) The knife of claim 13, wherein the retention post has a neck and a base and the blade has a tang including a slot that terminates in a receptacle sized to engage the base of the retention post.

15. (Original) The knife of claim 10, wherein first side and the second side include a connector adapted to release the first side from the second side when the first side and second side are in a rotated position.

16. (Currently amended) A knife comprising:

a handle including a first side and a second side, the first side removably fastened to the second side;

a blade removably secured to the handle where the blade is rotatable about a pivot point between an open position in which the blade extends away from the handle and a closed position in which the blade is at least partially received within the handle; and

a manipulable fastening device disposed on the handle substantially adjacent to the pivot point having a retaining element adapted to support the blade during rotation about the pivot point, and a manipulable element adjustably attached to the retaining element and adapted to removably secure the blade to the handle and removably secure the first side to the second side.

17. (Currently amended) The knife of claim 16, wherein ~~release~~ adjustment of the ~~fastening device~~ manipulable element relative to the retaining element enables rotation of the first side from the second side disengaging the first side from the second side.

18. (Currently amended) The knife of claim 16, wherein the blade has a tang including an inlet adapted to engage and secure a retention post of the ~~fastening device~~ retaining element.